

HOUSE BILL 225

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, relative to training for members of the general assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

3-1-123.

(a) The Tennessee ethics commission shall provide annual training in cultural awareness to the members of the general assembly. For purposes of this section, "cultural awareness" means an individual's awareness of opinions, values and customs that are different from the individual's. Cultural awareness training shall provide members with the skills necessary to uphold their obligations as public servants by conducting their responsibilities under the highest standards of professionalism and avoiding those actions and behaviors that are detrimental to the operation of the legislature as a governmental unit. Such training shall be offered on a date or dates when the general assembly is in session. The commission shall notify members in advance of the time and location of the training.

(b) Members of the general assembly shall attend the training provided by the commission pursuant to subsection (a). However, a member may petition the commission to approve training in cultural awareness other than the training offered by the commission.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.